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To: planningdepartment@houstontx.gov
Subject: CES Environmental Services, Inc. - Former Chemical Facility
Date: Sunday, February 15, 2015 1:27:57 PM

Mr. Walsh:

I am in need of your assistance. I want to find out how future land use is determined and approved in the City of Houston and how to prevent a property at 4904 Griggs Rd (Former CES Environmental Services property) from being allowed to continue to be used for heavy industrial operations.

I am an employee for the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and am conducting an environmental cleanup on this property to remove hazardous chemicals left behind when this facility filed bankruptcy in 2009. This company's actions within this residential neighborhood resulted in numerous complaints for odors from the beginning of its operations in approximately 2000. For all intents and purposes, the property was abandoned following the bankruptcy in 2009 except for responsibilities of a Bankruptcy Trustee. As a result of this abandonment, significant vandalism and chemical spills occurred from 2009 - early August 2014. As a result of the spill in July 2014, the EPA Emergency Response/Removal Program became involved and began its cleanup actions. This spill was carried into the the residential neighborhood to the south by stormwater runoff. The EPA has had a sustained response action on the property since August 2014.

For a property siting perspective, the property is bordered by Griggs Road and residential properties to the North, residential properties to the East, residential properties to the South, a commercial property, charter school and playground, and empty property to the West. The surrounding community has experienced at a minimum significant odor nuisances and possibly chemical exposures as a result of the former operations and more recent spills. Once the Property is cleaned up by EPA and others, the residents should not continue to have to worry about a similar operation ever being allowed to operate on this Property.

I am interested in finding out specifically what the City of Houston can do to ensure that a similar operation can no longer be allowed to operate on this property. Additionally, what can the local population do to ensure that a compatable use to the surrouding area (primarily residential) for this property is approved.

Thanks

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